

Oak Park fire – 1924

Camas Lumber in Oak Park burned to the ground the night of Sept. 17, 1924. There was a total of \$100,000 damage to lumber and outbuildings.

"Nothing of consequence could be salvaged," said the Camas Post of two days later. "In a lightning flash, the whole structure was ablaze."

A full Washougal River 20 yards away was to no avail, since pumping equipment was too late in arriving.

The fire, which was due to spontaneous combustion of sawdust below the saws, was discovered by a night watchman at 3:30 a.m. There was little he could do but call the fire department and get out of the way.

In all, 1.5 million board feet of lumber was consumed, and 50 Camas Lumber employees were put out of work.

Most recently –

Corrosion Controllers

Corrosion Controllers in Washougal was the site of a huge blaze on Sept. 19, 1974.

An alarm was turned in at 1:11 p.m. and soon, 10 units were battling the fire. Two trucks and 21 firemen from the Camas Department also helped fight the inferno.

Corrosion Controllers' building burned to the ground. Some records and materials were saved, but most were consumed in the fire.

At the fire's worst point, about 1:45 p.m., 50-gallon drums were blown 200 feet into the air and an east wind fanned the flames. The breeze blew smoke into the faces of firefighters, 12 of whom were overcome and had to be administered oxygen. Washougal's reservoir dropped 11 feet during the worst part of the fire, due to excessive water use.

Two hoses were set up to cool the hot spots of the smoldering wreckage of the building and were kept flowing until 11:15 p.m., when the last fireman left the scene.